

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

Tina Ward

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Camden County
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, Email and Telephone Number)

Simon & Simon, PC

1818 Market St., Suite 2000 Philadelphia, PA 19103

MarcSimon@Simonpc.com, (215) 467-4666

DEFENDANTS

State Farm Indemnity Company

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant McLean County, IL
(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff
- ☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant
- ☐ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
- ☒ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

- | | PTF | DEF | | PTF | DEF |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Citizen of This State | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Citizen of Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Foreign Nation | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

CONTRACT	TORTS		FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other LABOR <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act IMMIGRATION <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
REAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	CIVIL RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education	PRISONER PETITIONS Habeas Corpus: <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Alien Detainee <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty Other: <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition <input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement			

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☒ 1 Original Proceeding
- ☐ 2 Removed from State Court
- ☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court
- ☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened
- ☐ 5 Transferred from Another District (specify)
- ☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):
28 U.S.C. § 1391(a) (1) and (2)

Brief description of cause:
Motor vehicle accident

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.

DEMAND \$

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:

JURY DEMAND: ☒ Yes ☐ No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions):

JUDGE

DOCKET NUMBER

DATE

03/29/2021

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

Marc Simon

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT #

AMOUNT

APPLYING IFP

JUDGE

MAG. JUDGE

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
FEDERAL DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

Tina Ward
6 Hickory Ct.
Sicklerville, NJ 08081

Plaintiff

V.

State Farm Indemnity Company
One State Farm Plaza
Bloomington, IL 61710

Defendant

No. _____

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

COMPLAINT

PARTIES

1. Plaintiff, Tina Ward, is a citizen and resident of the State of New Jersey, residing at the address listed in the caption of this Complaint.

2. Defendant, State Farm Indemnity Company, is a corporate entity authorized to conduct business in the State of Illinois, with a business address at the address listed in the caption of this Complaint.

3. Defendant, State Farm Indemnity Company, was at all times material hereto, an insurance company, duly authorized and licensed to practice its profession by the State of New Jersey, and was engaged in the practice of providing insurance policies, including but not limited to motor vehicle liability policies including underinsured and uninsured motorist coverage.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

4. This Court has jurisdiction over the parties and subject matter of this Civil Action.

5. The Defendant, is a corporate entity in the State of Illinois and regularly conducts business in New Jersey.

6. The amount in controversy in this case, exclusive of interest and costs, exceeds the sum of \$75,000.

7. 28 U.S.C. §1332(a)(1) states that “the district courts shall have original jurisdiction of all civil action where the matter in controversy exceeds the sum or value or \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs, and is between . . . citizens of different states.”

8. This court thus has original jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to the aforementioned Section 1332(a)(1).

9. 28 U.S.C. § 1391(a) (1) and (2) states, “(1) this section shall govern the venue of all civil actions brought in district courts of the United States; and (2) the proper venue for a civil action shall be determined without regard to whether the action is local or transitory in nature.”

10. Venue is proper in this jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(a) (1) and (2).

11. 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) (2) states, “A civil action may be brought in a judicial district in which a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred, or a substantial part of property that is the subject of the action is situated.”

12. Venue is proper in this jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) (2) in that this is the judicial district in which a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims asserted in this Complaint occurred; i.e., the accident at issue occurred in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, which is in this federal judicial district.

13. On or about December 1, 2019, at approximately 6:30 p.m., Plaintiff, was the operator of a motor vehicle which was traveling at or near the intersection of S 63rd St. & Dicks Ave., in Philadelphia, PA.

14. At or about the same date and time, tortfeasor, Tyrease White, was the operator of a motor vehicle which was traveling at or near the aforesaid location and/or the location of Plaintiff's vehicle.

15. At or about the same date and time, tortfeasor's vehicle was involved in a motor vehicle collision with the Plaintiff's vehicle.

16. The aforesaid motor vehicle collision was caused by the tortfeasor negligently and/or carelessly, operating his/her vehicle in such a manner so as to rear-end Plaintiff's vehicle.

17. The aforesaid motor vehicle collision was the result of the negligence and/or carelessness of Defendant and not the result of any action or failure to act by Plaintiff.

18. As a result of the accident, Plaintiff suffered serious, severe and permanent bodily injuries, including to the neck, both shoulders and right knee, as set forth more fully below.

COUNT I

Tina Ward v. State Farm Mutual Indemnity Company Uninsured Motorists Coverage

19. Plaintiff incorporates the foregoing paragraphs of this Complaint as if set forth fully at length herein.

20. The negligence, carelessness, of the tortfeasor, which was the direct and sole cause of the aforesaid motor vehicle accident and the injuries and damages sustained by the Plaintiff, consisted of, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Rear-ending Plaintiff's vehicle;
- b. Failing to yield the right-of-way;
- c. Operating his/her vehicle into Plaintiff's lane of travel;
- d. Failing to maintain proper distance between vehicles;

- e. Operating said vehicle in a negligent and/or careless manner without regard for the rights or safety of plaintiff or others;
- f. Failing to have said vehicle under proper and adequate control;
- g. Operating said vehicle at a dangerous and excessive rate of speed under the circumstances;
- h. Violation of the “assured clear distance ahead” rule;
- i. Failure to keep a proper lookout;
- j. Failure to apply brakes earlier to stop the vehicle without rear-ending Plaintiff’s vehicle;
- k. Being inattentive to his/her duties as an operator of a motor vehicle;
- l. Disregarding traffic lanes, patterns, and other devices;
- m. Driving at a high rate of speed which was high and dangerous for conditions;
- n. Failing to remain continually alert while operating said vehicle;
- o. Failing to perceive the highly apparent danger to others which the actions and/or inactions posed;
- p. Failing to give Plaintiff meaningful warning signs concerning the impending collision;
- q. Failing to exercise ordinary care to avoid a collision;
- r. Failing to be highly vigilant and maintain sufficient control of said vehicle and to bring it to a stop on the shortest possible notice;

- s. Operating said vehicle with disregard for the rights of Plaintiff, even though he/she was aware or should have been aware of the presence of Plaintiff and the threat of harm posed to her;
- t. Continuing to operate the vehicle in a direction towards Plaintiff's vehicle when he/she saw, or in the exercise of reasonable diligence, should have seen, that further operation in that direction would result in a collision;
- u. Failing to operate said vehicle in compliance with the applicable laws and ordinances of the State of New Jersey pertaining to the operation and control of motor vehicles;

21. As a direct and consequential result of the negligent, careless, conduct of the tortfeasor, described above, the Plaintiff suffered various serious and permanent personal injuries, serious impairment of bodily function and/or permanent serious disfigurement and/or aggravation of pre-existing conditions, including to the neck, both shoulders and right knee, all to Plaintiff's great loss and detriment.

22. As a result of these injuries, all of which are permanent in nature and all of which are to Plaintiff's great financial detriment and loss, Plaintiff has in the past, is presently and may in the future suffer great anguish, sickness and agony and will continue to suffer for an indefinite time into the future.

23. As an additional result of the carelessness, negligence, of the tortfeasor, Plaintiff has suffered emotional injuries, along with the physical injuries suffered.

24. As a further result of the aforesaid injuries, Plaintiff has in the past, is presently and may in the future undergo a great loss of earnings and/or earning capacity, all to Plaintiff's further loss and detriment.

25. Upon information and belief, at the time of the aforementioned motor vehicle collision, the aforesaid tortfeasor was insured with a basic insurance policy through State Farm Indemnity Company, and thus the Plaintiff has no viable third-party insurance coverage available for this loss, and thus an Uninsured Motorist claim arises by operation of law, and plaintiff asserts same against the defendant and his/her insurer, State Farm Indemnity Company.

26. Accordingly, Plaintiff asserts an Uninsured Motorist Claim against Defendant.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Tina Ward, demands judgment in Plaintiff's favor and against defendant, State Farm Indemnity Company, in an amount in excess of Seventy-Five Thousand (\$75,000.00) Dollars, plus all costs and other relief this court deems necessary.

COUNT II

Tina Ward v. State Farm Indemnity Company Underinsured Motorists Coverage (IN THE ALTERNATIVE)

27. Plaintiff incorporates the foregoing paragraphs of this Complaint as if set forth fully at length herein.

28. The negligence and/or carelessness of the Defendant, which was the direct and sole cause of the aforesaid motor vehicle accident and the injuries and damages sustained by the Plaintiff, consisted of, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Rear-ending Plaintiff's vehicle;
- b. Failing to yield the right-of-way;
- c. Operating his/her vehicle into Plaintiff's lane of travel;
- d. Failing to maintain proper distance between vehicles;
- e. Operating said vehicle in a negligent and/or careless manner so as to rear-end Plaintiff's vehicle without regard for the rights or safety of plaintiff or others;

- f. Failing to have said vehicle under proper and adequate control;
- g. Operating said vehicle at a dangerous and excessive rate of speed under the circumstances;
- h. Violation of the “assured clear distance ahead” rule;
- i. Failure to keep a proper lookout;
- j. Failure to apply brakes earlier to stop the vehicle without rear-ending Plaintiff’s vehicle;
- k. Being inattentive to his/her duties as an operator of a motor vehicle;
- l. Disregarding traffic lanes, patterns, and other devices;
- m. Driving at a dangerously high rate of speed for conditions;
- n. Failing to remain continually alert while operating said vehicle;
- o. Failing to perceive the highly apparent danger to others which the actions and/or inactions posed;
- p. Failing to give Plaintiff meaningful warning signs concerning the impending collision;
- q. Failing to exercise ordinary care to avoid a rear-ending collision;
- r. Failing to be highly vigilant and maintain sufficient control of said vehicle and to bring it to a stop on the shortest possible notice;
- s. Operating said vehicle with disregard for the rights of Plaintiff, even though he/she was aware or should have been aware of the presence of Plaintiff and the threat of harm posed to him/her;

- t. Continuing to operate the vehicle in a direction towards Plaintiff's vehicle when he/she saw, or in the exercise of reasonable diligence, should have seen, that further operation in that direction would result in a collision;
- u. Failing to operate said vehicle in compliance with the applicable laws and ordinances of the State of New Jersey pertaining to the operation and control of motor vehicles;

29. As a direct and consequential result of the negligent and/or careless conduct of the Defendants, described above, the Plaintiff suffered various serious and permanent personal injuries, serious impairment of bodily function and/or permanent serious disfigurement and/or aggravation of pre-existing conditions including to the neck, both shoulders and right knee, all to Plaintiff's great loss and detriment.

30. As a result of these injuries, all of which are permanent in nature and all of which are to Plaintiff's great financial detriment and loss, Plaintiff has in the past, is presently and may in the future suffer great anguish, sickness and agony and will continue to suffer for an indefinite time into the future.

31. As an additional result of the carelessness and/or negligence of Defendants, Plaintiff has suffered emotional injuries, along with the physical injuries suffered.

32. As a further result of the aforesaid injuries, Plaintiff has in the past, is presently and may in the future undergo a great loss of earnings and/or earning capacity, all to Plaintiff's further loss and detriment.

33. Upon information and belief, at the time of the aforementioned motor vehicle collision, the aforesaid tortfeasor's motor vehicle insurance policy and/or liability insurance were

insufficient to fully and adequately compensate Plaintiff for the injuries suffered in the above set forth motor vehicle collision and/or other damages and expenses related thereto.

34. At the date and time of the aforementioned motor vehicle collision, Plaintiff, was the owner and operator of a motor vehicle was covered by a policy of insurance, under Policy Number 004 4639-E28-30O which included coverage for underinsured motorist coverage applicable to Plaintiff.

35. Accordingly, Plaintiff asserts an Underinsured Motorist Claim against Defendant.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment in Plaintiff's favor and against defendant, State Farm Indemnity Company, in an amount in excess of Seventy-Five Thousand (\$75,000.00) Dollars, plus all costs and other relief this court deems necessary.

SIMON & SIMON, P.C.

BY: Marc Simon
Marc I. Simon, Esquire